

physically arrested the belligerent, despite gun-shot wounds he had sustained to his leg. After a fellow soldier was able to neutralize the insurgent, Sgt. Gilboe delayed medical treatment to help secure the area and aid his wounded comrades.

There is no question that that Sgt. Gilboe's actions saved the lives of his comrades that day. His remarkable heroism and devotion to his fellow soldiers are an inspiration to all that know him or have heard his story. Beyond the great honor of the Silver Star, our nation owes Sgt. Gilboe our everlasting thanks and appreciation. I am proud and greatly humbled to stand here today and honor such an individual.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sgt. Timothy Gilboe for his incredible heroism.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,104,054,667,691.48. We've added \$10,302,649,492,397.20 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

COMMENDING KEVIN FAY FOR RECEIVING THE 2012 JAMES L. EICHBERG LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Kevin Fay for being named the recipient of the inaugural James L. Eichberg Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of tremendous service to our community.

Kevin has been an Executive Committee member of the Leukemia Ball for 15 years, helping to raise more than \$3 million for research funding. In 2001, he founded The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Congressional Honors Program helping to educate those of us in Congress on the many challenges these deadly diseases pose, and the effectiveness of research funding in leading to advances in diagnosing and treating them.

Kevin has served on the Fairfax County Park Authority since 2003, improving the quality of life for local residents. He has helped provide new athletic fields, a fully accessible playground for children of all abilities, additional County trails and the preservation of historic sites. He has chaired several Park Authority committees, as well as serving as a liaison to the Fairfax County Public Schools.

Additionally, Kevin has assisted in the fundraising efforts of numerous charitable organi-

zations such as St. Patrick's Foundation, The World's Children Choir and McLean Little League. Thanks to his tireless efforts, Kevin has helped raise millions of dollars in funding for these and other worthy organizations.

I have been privileged to know Kevin Fay for many years and I have marveled at his generosity of spirit in his many volunteering capacities throughout our region. I know that our community has benefited greatly from his good deeds. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Kevin Fay for being named the 2012 recipient of the James L. Eichberg Lifetime Achievement Award, and to offer our thanks for his lifetime of work on behalf of others.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my condolences to the people of the Philippines in the aftermath of the destructive typhoon and flood that swept across Mindanao, devastating the coastal areas around Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, and Bukinon.

This past weekend, Typhoon Washi struck the Philippines with turbulent winds, overwhelming the region with a month's worth of rain over just 12 hours. The heavy rain caused rivers to overflow and, in the middle of the night, the fast rising waters ravaged the populated villages. An estimated 167,000 Filipinos have been impacted, with 957 losing their lives. Sadly, these numbers rise as each day passes.

Right now, these areas are suffering from crowded evacuation centers, inundated medical facilities, and destroyed homes. As the Philippines and the United States have an historically close relationship, it is important to ensure that we assist the Filipino people as best we can, and help the many suffering rebuild and heal. The needs in these destroyed areas are substantial.

I also commend the quick community efforts of U.S. based Filipino organizations, such as Kagay-anon International of Southern California (KISC), for answering the call to help. Within 24 hours, KISC already collected 15 boxes worth of clothing, food, and water. It is organizations like this that truly bring hope to those in need and make a difference in a crisis.

Again, I express my deepest condolences to the people of the Philippines. As the holidays approach, know that we support and stand by you as you work to recover from this natural disaster.

HONORING ASHER B. DURAND AND THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTERS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two important paintings in the Capitol

Visitors Center that were recently placed for public viewing by the Architect of the Capitol. I refer to the famous 19th century painter Albert Bierstadt's works "The Discovery of the Hudson River" and "Entrance into Monterey," which can be viewed near the starting point for visitor tours through the Capitol. These paintings represent a uniquely American point of view as part of the Hudson River School of Painting.

Within my district in New York City, there are many connections to this first indigenous American school of painting and its artists. One artist, Asher Durand, stands out in particular.

Durand helped found what is known today as the National Academy Museum and School, which I am proud to have in my district. Durand was a very accomplished artist of the 19th century and he served as president of the Academy for many years. His style was highly detailed, a hallmark of the School, and one of his most famous pieces, "Kindred Spirits," is often cited as one of the works most emblematic of the School's ideals. This painting, which resided in the iconic New York Public Library in my district for over 100 years, cemented Durand's place at the forefront of the movement created by the Hudson River School.

As the School's prominence grew, many of the painters traveled abroad to study and were introduced to the culture of the capitals of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. These travels inspired many of the artists to join with other leaders to found the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in 1870. Located in my district on Fifth Avenue, around 5 million visitors walk up the steps of this landmark institution each year. Some of the School's painters later served as trustees and members of the Executive Committee for the Met. Today, many works from the Hudson River School, including several by Durand, hang there.

Some painters also traveled to the American West, which at the time, was an exciting, undiscovered region that captivated Americans in the East. The members of Congress were so inspired by the works produced on these trips that they dedicated national parks, such as Yellowstone and Yosemite, to protect the awe-inspiring landscapes many had only ever witnessed on canvas. This spirit of environmental conservation became more and more popular, and these paintings were later used to support the creation of the National Parks Service in 1916.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the importance of painters like Asher Durand and his contemporaries of the Hudson River School, whose contributions to our country's art, culture, and society are innumerable and still important to every American today.

H.R. 3029, THE REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH ATTRITION ACT OF 2011

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Committee on Oversight and Government